

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 19, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:04 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Thomas Shippey, Manager of the Maintenance Operations Bureau, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Tong Sangmeister
Brett Waterfield

Absent: Drew Satariano, Vice President

Staff: Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Services Bureau
Lt. Joe Stilinovich, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer
Ken Campbell, Personnel Officer
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: None

President Saltzgaver let the Commission know that Vice President Satariano's mother passed away yesterday.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to excuse the absence of Vice President Drew Satariano. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 21, 2007

It was moved by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the June 21, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#07-0601

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Saltzgaver confirmed that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet this month.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning and discussed the proposed fee increases for the coming year. They will have another month to look over the proposed increases and any additional proposed increases. The fee increases will be brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission at the August meeting.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee did not meet this month. He requested Lt. Joe Stilinovich give a report.

Lt. Joe Stilinovich described an accident with Park Ranger Carlos Ortiz and a loose leash from a Great Dane dog in Los Cerritos Park. On a positive note, he said that the Park Rangers have adopted one of the barbecues that were donated by Partners of Parks some time ago. They plan to go out to events hosted by the Department and cook hotdogs and hamburgers to give out to the public. This will be a positive community outreach interaction with the public. He said that the parks are very busy this summer.

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister said that on the 4th of July, she and her family went by Bixby Park and it looked like a crime scene with all the yellow tape sectioning off areas for picnics. She asked if that was something that could be regulated and if the Park Rangers could ask people to take that down.

Lt. Stilinovich stated that if there were a complaint, they would request people to take the tape down. They would not go and proactively request that people take down the tape. On the 4th of July, the Park Rangers pull back into El Dorado Regional Park because the crowd is so big there. The Police Department takes care of the bluff area and the beaches.

President Saltzgaver suggested that the Committee look at that issue and perhaps revamp the Committee in the terms of unenforceable reservations, especially on big days.

D. PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee met and discussed the new direction. They discussed Focus on Results and said they would have lots to look into with the new direction of the Committee.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone said that the Committee met this morning and, as a result of the Focus on Results, the City Council asked every department to submit monthly updates on Capital Improvements and he said that the Parks and Recreation Commission would be receiving the Department's information monthly, rather than quarterly. They also discussed the creation of an additional dog park in the western half of the city. He said that Mr. Eschen would forward that report to the Committee and to the full Parks and Recreation Commission in August. They have identified five potential dog park locations. He said that one of his concerns was putting forward five potential sites and having the public think they were going to get five sites. Mr. Eschen will reduce that down to two very feasible sites.

President Saltzgaver suggested bringing Vice President Satariano up to speed, since he was not present for the meeting.

Mr. Eschen mentioned that there was one other item discussed, the Park Impact Fee increase that was approved by the City Council. He said that the Department would not be receiving any money from this for a while, because the fees are collected on the completion of residential building projects.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister stated that the Committee did not meet this month. She said that there was a draft letter included in the packet, as well as a recommendation regarding the Long Beach Unified School District's Master Plan.

Ms. Anna Mendiola stated that they put together a letter, with the help of Commissioners Sangmeister and George, in response to the Long Beach Unified School District Master Plan. She said that the School District is running a little behind schedule and they will not be sending their draft to the School Board until August or September. The draft letter from the Parks and Recreation Commission outlines all the reasons for joint use and open space and the need for green space.

President Saltzgaver suggested that the letter also be addressed to the President of the School Board and sent to the entire School Board.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if there was any plan to follow through with the City Councilmembers if a response is not received from the School Board members?

President Saltzgaver suggested that a better time to discuss the matter with the City Councilmembers is after they discuss the budget issues.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if there were any parent groups that should be copied on this letter?

Ms. Mendiola said that they discussed copying the Youth Commission.

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister said that they talked about ASAP or the other groups that have after school programs.

President Saltzgaver said that he would caution against too broad of a distribution. He thought it should be more focused.

Commissioner Waterfield said that they talked about not only the services that the park provides, but also some of the other agencies and to try to get them involved and be a voice. He said that he talked to a few groups and they have no idea what is going on.

President Saltzgaver said that it would look like they are trying to broadside the School District if everyone was copied on the letter.

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister said that maybe a second letter could be sent that is not focused on open space joint use, but more on the after school programs.

Ms. Mendiola said that they talked about going before the Commission on Youth and Children and let them know what the Parks and Recreation Commission is doing.

President Saltzgaver said that he prefers that approach.

It was moved by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the letter from the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Superintendent of Long Beach Unified School District and to the President of the School Board. The motion carried unanimously.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone said that the Special Events and Filming Bureau was busy with their events and that the next Committee meeting was set for August 30, 2007.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2007

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for June 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Saltzgaver said that included in the packet was a memorandum to the Mayor and Members of the City Council regarding the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Mr. Eschen stated that the memorandum requires a response and that the Parks and Recreation Committee would be a participating agency with the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if that would go to a particular committee?

Mr. Shippey said that Public Works would be bringing this item to their Tree Committee and they would probably bring it before the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Commission could then send it to a Committee for additional input. He said that Public Works should be bringing this item forward to the City Council within the next 60 days. He said that Department staff serves on the Tree Committee.

President Saltzgaver said that he would like to see something before it goes to the City Council.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no new business.

IX. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Ms. Chrissy Marshall said that since July is National Parks and Recreation Month, she presented the Commissioners with polo shirts with the Department's logo, for when they attend City events.

Mr. Dennis Eschen said that two openings of completed facilities are coming up. July 28th is the opening of King Park Pool, at 11:00 a.m., and August 4th is the Jack Nichol Park opening.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Waterfield asked if the new Park Ranger station was completed.

Mr. Shippey responded that the building is completed and the rangers have moved in.

Ms. Marshall stated that the project was just completed recently.

Mr. Shippey suggested that staff take the Commissioners on a tour of the facility.

Commissioner Waterfield agreed. He said that he wore his Baseball Hall of Fame shirt to work and received a lot of comments.

Commissioner Guerra said that he attended a Movie in the Park and the crowd had a great time and staff made sure that they had popcorn. It was a great event. He said he did not see the promotional clip before the movie though and asked if it was ready.

Ms. Marshall responded that it should be completed soon and shown before the Movies in the Park.

President Saltzgaver said that in Belmont Shore there is a small playground called Livingston Park and a group of residents have begun a drive to totally rebuild that playground. He said that he is involved through the newspaper and that it would eventually be coming before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

President Saltzgaver said that the 5th District City Councilwoman had taken forward information from her meetings regarding the El Dorado Skate Park issues. She attempted to take those directly to the City Council with a recommendation that they come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Those recommendations were extremely specific and rather far-reaching. She was convinced to pull that from the agenda with the promise from President Saltzgaver that the Parks and Recreation Commission would review the recommendation. She said she would transmit them to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said when that occurs, the Park Safety Committee would be the appropriate committee for that to be discussed in depth.

X. NEXT MEETING

President Saltzgaver stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at El Dorado Park West in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine